



When James Winsor bought a lot in 1795 from his brother-in-law, Job Samson, it was so soon after the Revolution that he paid for it in pounds -- 15 pounds for a lot fronting on the cartway that is now Water St. A few years later when Washington St. was laid out this became a corner lot.

James Winsor, like most of his neighbors, was a mariner, described as a "seafaringman" in one deed, and he chose to live in the new part of town along the bay where the growing maritime activities were centered.

Early in 1796 James Winsor built his house, a three quarters house with a gambrel roof, smaller and more compact than the Samson house next door. The stairway was in a small room on the west end with a parlor to the east, while across the back was the big kitchen with a burning room and a buttry. It was a small family when Capt. Winsor moved in with his wife Sarah, and 3 sons, Samuel 5, George 3, and Hosea only one, but Sophia was born the next year and in orderly succession 5 more came to tax the capacity of the new house, yet probably there were no additions while the 9 children were growing up.

On Sept. 4, 1830, James Winsor sold his land "together with all buildings" -- house, woodshed, and barn -- to his sons, George and Hosea, both mariners. They paid \$700 for the property located then "on the main road leading through the village." As long as the Winsors were in the house there were few changes but in 1858 the last of the family, Hosea's widow and her maiden daughter, sold to John Wilde.

Not all improvements came about at once but over the years when some owners had small incomes and some found it necessary to "let rooms," the interior was adapted to the needs. A kitchen ell enlarged the first floor, the stairs were relocated to add another bedroom, fireplaces were sacrificed to stoves, and other changes altered the second floor. Through all the lean years the old house weathered the neglect, with no visible change outside and with none inside that could not be restored.

Today, Capt. James Winsor's house stands on its corner, facing the lane to the bay, a charming three quarter house, looking much as it did in 1796, carefully restored by Mr. and Mrs. James Frame.

Dorothy Wentworth, Researcher